



**Minutes of the
ALAMEDA FREE LIBRARY BOARD MEETING
January 12, 2011**

The regular meeting of the Alameda Free Library Board was called to order at 6:03 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Present: Mike Hartigan, President
Suzanne Whyte, Vice President
Catherine Atkin, Board Member
Nancy Lewis, Board Member
Gail Wetzork, Board Member

Absent: None

Staff: Jane Chisaki, Library Director
Marsha Merrick, Recording Secretary

CONSENT CALENDAR

An asterisk indicates items so accepted or approved on the Consent Calendar.

- A. *Report from the Library Director Highlighting Activities for the Month of January 2011. Accepted.
- B. *Draft Minutes of the Regular Library Board Meeting of December 8, 2010. Approved.
- C. *Library Services Report for the Month of November 2010. Accepted.
- D. *Financial Report Reflecting FY10 Expenditures by Fund for December 2010. Accepted.
- E. *Bills for Ratification for the Month of December 2010. Approved.

Member Lewis had noticed there was a large drop in reference statistics. Director Chisaki responded that staff had forgotten to count questions for a period of time, which led to the lower number.

President Hartigan asked for a motion to approve the Consent Calendar as presented. Member Wetzork so moved; Vice President Whyte seconded the motion which carried by a 5-0 vote.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- A. Neighborhood Library Improvement Project (G. Wetzork)

Director Chisaki gave a report of the progress to date on the Bay Farm branch renovations.

With the exterior painting complete, the Library and Recreation & Park building now look like two separate buildings. The wood ceilings have been installed, and the trellis is being modified. The artist, Kana Tanaka, went in to check for placement of her art piece, and will return around the beginning of February for installation. Wiring is also complete, but there is a slight delay with the carpet order. The expenditure summary to date was included in the board packet. Complaints have lessened about the closure as the project nears completion. There is a punchlist meeting on Monday, January 24, and the grand re-opening is scheduled for Tuesday, March 8 at 2:00 p.m.

Director Chisaki introduced Dennis McDaniels, who had put together a plan for landscaping of the West End branch for the Board's approval. The design included all native and similar climate plants; about 50-70% are natives. The front plantings will be symmetrical, and some of the good existing plants will be relocated. President Hartigan asked who would do the upkeep, and McDaniels said he would do it as he knows about water and maintenance requirements. Currently, the Public Works Department does minimal maintenance, but Chisaki will call them and ask that West End be taken off their list. The trees being removed will be mulched; the mulch will be used to cover any bare spots between the plantings.

The Board didn't have any further questions, so President Hartigan asked for a motion to accept the landscape proposal as presented. Member Wetzork so moved; Vice President Whyte seconded the motion which carried by a 5-0 vote.

NEW BUSINESS

A. Alameda Free Library Foundation (J. Chisaki)

The Foundation did not have a meeting; however, Chisaki reported that the Children's Concert has been scheduled for the last Saturday in February. The San Francisco Opera will be performing *The Magic Flute*. The Foundation will talk about logistics for the program at their next meeting.

B. Friends of the Alameda Free Library (K. Minney)

There was no meeting so nothing to report.

C. Patron Suggestions/Comments (Speak-Outs) and Library Director's Response

A patron had commented a year ago about the slowness of the Internet, and still sees no improvement. Our speeds are better now, but depending on what time of day you get on, and how many people are also using the Internet will affect the speed as well.

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS, NON-AGENDA (Public Comment)

Audience member Li Volin asked whether the State cuts would affect the on-line homework help program or the in-Library homework help. Director Chisaki said both would continue. Volin then asked about the School Resource Services program, and Chisaki said that would also continue as a part-time position.

LIBRARY BOARD COMMUNICATIONS

Member Atkin had heard that literacy program funding was one of the State's proposed budget cuts. Director Chisaki said this was true and that TBR and PLF were also on the table. A letter-writing campaign is on in hopes of preserving at least some of this funding, although with the dramatic reductions seen in the last few years, libraries have already been getting along with much less than in prior years.

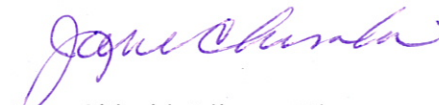
DIRECTOR'S COMMENTS

A grant proposal for \$3,500 was submitted and accepted by BALIS for a Seed Lending Library. Librarian Joel Butler is spearheading the program and is working with Ploughshares, Encinal and Thomsen's, all Alameda nurseries. The solar panel project is moving forward, with the rebate form now finalized. The city's new webpage is finally up, but several problems have come to light. Chisaki encouraged the Board to go out and take a look and give her any comments they might have.

ADJOURNMENT

President Hartigan adjourned the meeting at 7:02 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Jane Chisaki, Library Director and
Secretary to the Alameda Free Library Board